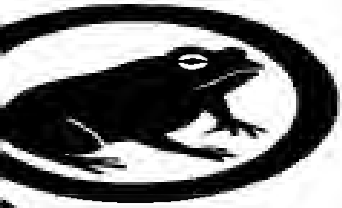


Black Frog



Black Frog

47

September 12th, 1981

Volume 3, Number 47

of North America's #1 rated Diplomacy 'Zine



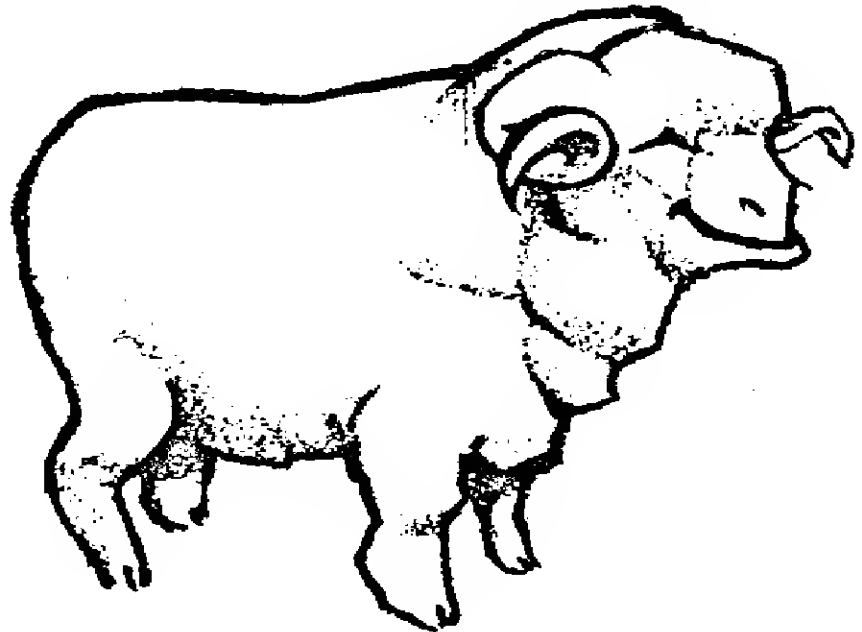
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BLACK FROG is a Diplomacy 'Zine that emphasizes that Postal Diplomacy is fun to play! The publisher is John H. ('Jack') Masters, 25711 N. Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. (805) 259-2811. There is currently a freeze on new subscriptions to BF (see details inside).

Diplomacy is the registered trade mark for a game invented by A. Calhamer and owned by Avalon Hill, Inc.

.....

..... Simply because
no issue of a North
American Diplomacy
'zine has ever been
dedicated to the
MERINO



..... this issue of
BLACK FROG,
is hereby dedicated
to the MERINO.

Me-ri'no (mĕ-rĕ'nō; mĕ), *n*; *pl.* -nos (-nōz). [Sp.; cf. Sp. *merino* moving from pasture to pasture, *merino* a royal judge and superintendent or inspector of sheep walks, *ML. merinus*, fr. *majorinus*, i.e., major villac, fr. *L. major* greater. See *MAYOR*.]
1. a A hardy gregarious breed of fine woolled white sheep, originating in Spain, widely popular, esp. on the ranges in America and Australia. The rams have heavy spirally twisted horns; the ewes are hornless. The wool covers the head, often obscuring the eyes. In the better varieties the skin hangs in heavy folds, esp. about the breast, shoulders, and thighs. The breed excels all others in the weight and quality of its fleece, but does not rank high as a mutton producer. *b* [not cap.] An animal of this breed.
2. A fine soft fabric resembling cashmere, made originally of merino wool.
3. A fine wool yarn used in hosiery, knit underwear etc.



See the Merino Standing There, With His Long, Shaggy Hair

Well, if you don't care for Merino's, you may not care for this issue....but issue #47 is dedicated to the MERINO!

Issue #47 is also a big issue. Big by Black Frog standards, anyway. It is really dedicated to those subscribers who voted in the Leeder 'Zine Poll and made the #1 rating for Black Frog possible. I hope that this issue will convey my appreciation for your votes!

The preliminary vote reported in BF #46 is now official. Black Frog was indeed the top rated 'zine in North America for 1981. The 'Zine Poll results were reported in Runestone #327, and will be covered in many 'zines (including East of Eden #15). I will just take space here to list the top 20 rated 'zines:

1. BLACK FROG	8.15	11. EAST OF EDEN	7.43
2. Dot Happy	8.04	12. Whitestonia	7.36
3. Brutus Bulletin	7.95	13. Bushwacker	7.13
4. Murd'ring Ministers	7.87	14. Fol Si Fie	7.11
5. Retaliation	7.81	15. St. George etc.	7.10
6. Europa Express	7.77	16. Diplomacy Digest	7.07
7. Lone Star Diplomat	7.72	17. Plague Times	6.97
8. Just Among Friends	7.61	18. Torpedo	6.93
9. Jihad!	7.56	18. Why Me?	6.93
10. Cheesecake	7.53	20. Emhain Macha	6.90

BLACK FROG FREEZE ON NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

I have resigned my position at Lockheed and on Monday morning September 14th I will be starting on a new job with Bell Helmets in Norwalk, California. Norwalk is about 60-65 miles distant and I have to cross through Los Angeles and use Los Angeles freeways to get back and forth to work. I figure on spending three hours a day commuting on the freeways (as compared to the one hour that I am used to spending going back and forth to Burbank). In addition I will be working longer hours on the job. Most of the extra time required for this new job will have to come at the expense of time that I have been spending on "the hobby", thus I don't want to increase my commitments at this time in the way of taking on new subbers. Also I am going to have to find new places to have my xeroxing done and have no idea what costs may end up being. I have been doing it at a shop in Burbank (near Lockheed) that I can get to during my lunch time.

This new subscription freeze does not exclude old subbers from renewing their subs. Nor will it exclude persons playing games postally with the publisher from subbing. Hopefully, I will have matters worked out on the new job in short order and the freeze can be taken off in the near future.

.....

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO FOR BELL HELMETS?

Somebody out there must be curious about this. Bell Helmets is a leading manufacturer of motorcycle and racing car helmets. They are wanting to diversify and expand into other areas, such as military hats (you don't call these things helmets anymore). My job will be to head up a R&D project to provide materials and construction to meet specifications for a modern light weight military helmet. Initially I will supervise the hand lay-up of Kevlar/epoxy (and other composite materials) into test panels, will cure these (in press or autoclave) and then test them for anti-ballistic properties on a firing range. This should be fairly interesting work. I hope!



*See the merino standing there,
With his long, shaggy hair.*

LEAVING LOCKHEED was not an easy decision to make. I have been working on composite (graphite/epoxy/kevlar) constructions for aircraft fuselages and was in the process of making some real breakthroughs. I was scheduled to make a presentation at a national SAMPE meeting in November and NASA was beginning to show a lot of interest in the work that I was doing.

However the situation at Lockheed is not all that good. There is still a lot of animosity from last winters engin-

.....
eering strike. Also Lockheed's (at least Lockheed California's) main endeavor is to build the L-1011 wide-body commercial jet. These things are almost at a dead end now. The backlog of orders for L-1011's (from 1979 mostly) is just about finished and only three new planes were ordered in the past nine months (matching exactly three cancellations). The Lockheed production lines are geared to build 24 L-1011's a year. The rate has recently been cut back to one-a-month, but this only extends the time for completion of existing orders from February of '82 until about July of '82. Rumors of massive lay-offs at Lockheed abound. I expect that there will be at least a 20% across the board lay-off this month and another lay-off just before Christmas. I am not in anyway involved L-1011 production in my job and would certainly survive a first round of lay-offs, and possibly a second. But, when I have a good job looking at me elsewhere--I am taking it.

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NOTICE:

I am collecting the results sheets from Diplomacy Tournaments for a statistical analysis of the strengths of countries in FTF play. I especially want the year by year center count, if you have them. I will pay the copying costs and postage and send the results to anyone who helps. Frederic Townsend, 3830 T St., NW., Wash-

CONGRATULATIONS TO
BILL SCHIWAUTZ:

Bill Schiwautz has just won his 1st postal Diplomacy game, as Italy in 1980ID (the "Death" game in Black Frog). The other players conceded to the Italian win in S'1907. This was reported in East of Eden #15.

The end game wrap-up, and any end-game statements will appear in a future issue of Black Frog.

Bill is the first person to win a game that started in BF. Ron Brown recorded a win as Austria in 1977HG, a game that ended in Black Frog, but after being picked up as an orphan.



*See the merino standing there,
With his long, shaggy hare.*

LABOR DAY WEEKEND:

I am staying at home this labor day weekend, and am typing up part of this ahead of time, although I don't expect to mail this out before the end of the week. I am pecking away at this page, half-heartedly, as I wait for the San Diego/Cleveland game to start on the tube.

There were two war game cons available this weekend in southern California (Westgate in Anaheim and Glascon in Northridge) but I stayed away from both. Actually I knew that Dave Manuel would be attending one of these and I wasn't sure which one. I just didn't want to take a chance of running up against him again in a ftf game.

ANOTHER POSTAL WIN FOR YOUR PUBLISHER:

Just last issue of Black Frog, I reported my 1st win ever in a postal Diplomacy game; a victory as France in 1979CV (Claw & Fang). Well less than a month later, I have done it again. I have just gotten a win, as France again, in 1979CE (Dragon & the Lamb).

Winning in 79CV gave me great pleasure as it came against an early ally (Bruce Linsey) who stabbed me in mid-game. But the win in 79CE is rather hollow by comparison. My nearly game-long ally in 79CE was Bill Hart who was playing England. I was playing for, and expecting to get a 2-way F/E draw in the game; and, in many ways lucked out. Twice in the late game I voted for a two-way F/E draw proposal, and it was defeated twice. At least one of these times, the only person to vote the draw down was a Turkish player who was being blitzed by me. When the draws failed, a limited war between England (Hart) and France (myself) was inevitable. England simply had no other place to go and had me outnumbered in the north. In Fall 1908 I took Holland from my ally--primarily to slow him down in my direction. In Fall 1909, I thought I had a 50/50 chance at a win by northern moves that would retain Holland as I was taking the two centers I needed to win from Turkey in the south. Hart came up with brilliant moves in Fall 1909, completely outguessing me--not only did he take back Holland, but he also grabbed Belgium. Going into 1910, I figured that I would have to concede Brest to England and would have to fall back into a hopeful stalemate position that would retain Portugal and Spain and seal England out of the Med. But in Spring 1910, Bill made a couple of mistakes and my units thrust into Denmark and Kiel, formerly controlled by England. I could not hold these two in the fall, but in forcing me out, Bill could not prevent me from retaking Holland. I took one additional center from Turkey (who was down to 3 at this point) and won with 18 centers in 1910.

Bill Hart was an excellent ally for 8 game years and, except for working with him, I would never have reached end game. I also regard Bill as one of the better players that I have been pitted against in a game.



*See the merino standing there,
With his long, shaggy Eire.*

My record in postal
Diplomacy games now stands
at:

Wins	2
2/way draws..	2
3/way draws..	1
eliminations.	1

I have six other games
in various stages of progress.

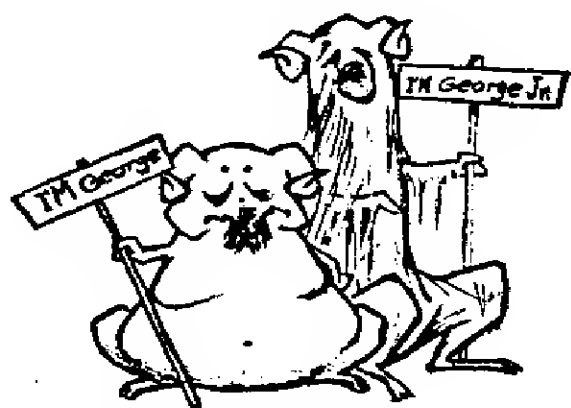
ANSWERS TO LETTER EQUATIONS:

These letter equations appeared in Black Frog #44 on July 27th. I stole them from Dreadnought, but Vern Schaller has since informed me that he stole them from Games & Puzzles Magazine. Don Ditter sent in the answers and had all but one right. Don Del Grande also sent in the answers--along with the original article out of G&P. And, oh yes Don, I had a very good reason for not including all of them. The answers:

- (a.) 26 = L. of the A. "Letters of the Alphabet"
- (b.) 7 = W. of the A.W. "Wonders of the Ancient World"
- (c.) 1,001 = A.N. "Arabian Nights"
- (d.) 12 = S. of the Z. "Signs of the Zodiac"
- (e.) 9 = P. in the S.S. "Planets in the Solar System"
- (f.) 88 = P.K. "Piano Keys"
- (g.) 13 = S. on the A.F. "Stripes on the American Flag"
- (h.) 32 = D.F. at which W.F. "Degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes"
- (i.) 90 = D. in a R.A. "Degrees in a Right Angle"
- (j.) 8 = S. on a S.S. "Sides on a Stop Sign"
- (k.) 3 = B.M.(S.H.T.R.) "Blind Mice (See How They Run)"
- (l.) 4 = Q. in a G. "Quarts in a Gallon"
- (m.) 24 = H. in a D. "Hours in a Day"
- (n.) 1 = W. on a U. "Wheels on a Unicycle"
- (o.) 5 = D. in a Z.C. "Digits in a Zip Code"
- (p.) 57 = H.V. "Heinz Varieties"
- (q.) 1,000 = W. that a P. is W. "Words that a Picture is Worth"
- (r.) 29 = D. in F. in a L.Y. "Days in February in a Leap Year"
- (s.) 40 = D. and N. of the G.F. "Days and Nights of the Great Flood"

I have put together some more of these letter equations and, starting with the next issue of Black Frog, there will be a contest to solve themwith a valuable prize attached, for the subber who can do the best job

Look for it.....



See the merino standing there,
With his long, shaggy heir.

RIVER CITY DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT

Clark Reynolds has asked me to publicize his Diplomacy tournament in Sacramento next month. I have not made it up to any of Clark's tournaments as of yet (I believe that this will be his third) but their reputation for being-well run tournaments has gotten back to me. I am very glad to publicize this for you Clark, and hopefully I will make it up this time. (Perhaps Dave Manuel won't be able to make it and I'll have a chance of winning.)



*See the merino standing there,
With his long, shaggy Eyre.*

RIVER CITY DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT in Sacramento, California on October 10 & 11 (Columbus Day Weekend) at the Gaming Center (1433 Fulton Ave., Suite H). The Tournament will consist of three rounds, a maximum time period of five hours per round.

Registration will start at 9AM Saturday, play to begin by 10AM, and the tournament will end at 5 PM Sunday. Plaques will be awarded for the seven "Best Country Played"

awards; prize money will

be available totalling \$140 (based on 28 entries) for the top three places. Preregistration (\$5) ends Friday Oct. 2nd; registration (\$10) at the door Sat. Oct. 10 until 10AM. Send preregistration money to Clark Reynolds, PO Box 160413, Sacramento, CA 95816. For more information contact Clark at (916) 455-5505 or (916) 322-8389.

A NEW ZINE: Erebor:

I have received a sample copy of Erebor, a new 'zine by Brian Lorber and Ken Halpern, 7 Polo Road, Great Neck, NY 11023. Subs to Erebor are 10 issues for \$5.00, with free games to the first 14 suppliers. You might want to send a SASE and check this one out. The publishers are unknown to me.

NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN OTHER ZINES:

BERSAGLIERI STEPS OUT OF EMHAIN MACHA

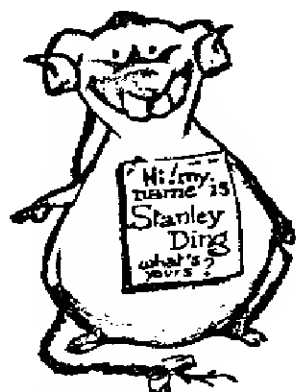
Tom Mainardi's popular subzine in Emhain Macha is moving out. Tom has announced that he and Steve Arna-woodian will be starting up a new Dipzine that will go by the name of Coat of Arms. CoA will consist of two subzines, Tom's Bersaglieri and Diplomatic Immunity which will be done by Steve. Game openings are available, and Tom has always had interesting material in Bersaglieri. I look for CoA to be a good one. For more information write to Tom Mainardi, 1403 Lawrence Rd., Havertown, PA 19083.

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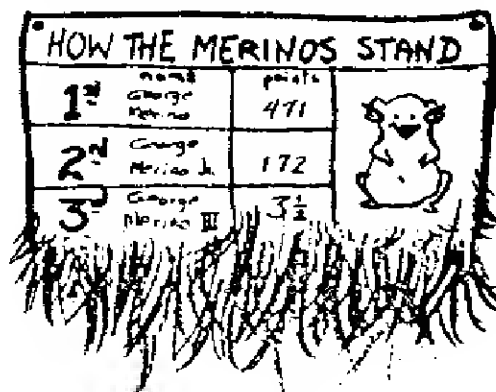
EMHAIN MACHA TO FOLD

Mike Mills has just announced that he will fold Emhain Macha with issue #26 in early October. Mike cites a new job that is taking a great deal more of his time as the primary reason for the fold. Mike promises to run EM games to completion by newsletter and to refund all sub monies. He will continue to publish the 'Zine Directory. I hate to see EM fold, it has been one of my favorite 'zines for quite a while. But I am glad to see that Mike is doing it in a responsible way.

.....



See the merino, Stan Ding, there,
With his long, shaggy hair.



See the merino-standing, there,
With its long, shaggy hair.

.....

WELCOME BACK; PLAGUE TIMES

I have just received issue #7 of Plague Times. PT ended publication, temporarily, because of health problems of pubber Marion Bates. It is good to see that Marion is well enough to resume publication. PT is one of the better 'zines around and was rated 17th in the Leeder Poll. I'm sure that Marion would enjoy a few new subbers to further cheer him up on his recovery, so why not write him and ask

for a sample of PT. Write to Marion Bates, P.O. Box 381,
Kalhaska, MI 49646.

.....
BRUTUS BULLETIN HITS 100

John Michalski's Brutus Bulletin has just reached it's 100th issue. BB has been rated in the top 10 'zines three out of the past four years. This year he was #3, and he got the #1 rating in 1978 (his first year). BB is a must 'zine to many in the hobby. It features uncensored letters from it's readers (many of which aren't worth the paper they are printed on); Various nonsense stuff (some of which is very good) that always seems to turn up in John's mailbox; Two-week-deadline black-press (and this usually means vulgar black press) games, mostly by guest gamemasters (and there is no way that I would ever get caught in one of these games); and JOHN'S NOTES. I capitalize "John's Notes" because they are, in my opinion, the best element of BB. John seems to get wind of every thing happening in the hobby long before anybody else and he puts this information here--from his unique viewpoint. I never pay any attention to the games in BB, and only read perhaps 50% of the letters--but I never miss a word of John's Notes. I am looking forward to John keeping it up and hitting #200 in four more years.

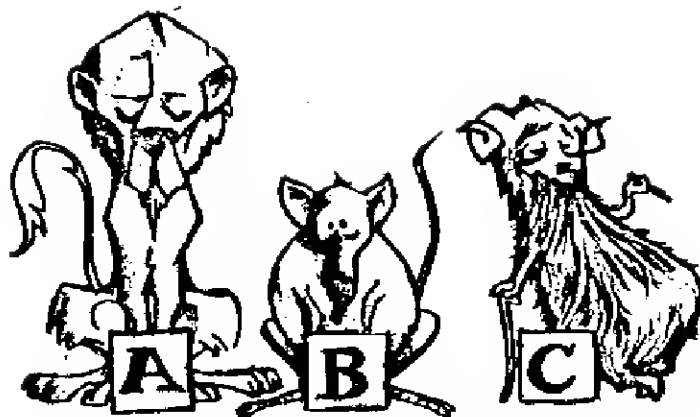
For sample copies, if you don't already receive BB, send a SASE (with 35¢ postage) to John Michalski, Route 10, Box 526Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165.



See the merino standing . . .
Therewith his long, shaggy hatr.

.....
THE CHAMBER COMES OUT WITH DOUBLE ISSUE:

Hard as it may be to believe, the last issue of The Chamber was a double issue (#8 & 9). TC features the widest margins in the hobby and is published by Dave Manuel, 10318 Oakgate, Bellflower, CA 90706. Catch a copy if you can!



"C", the merino, standing there,
With his long, shaggy hair.



See the marino standing there,
With his long, shaggy hair.

.....

MORE NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN OTHER ZINES:

TETRACUSPID THROWS OUT JACK MASTERS

Issue #56 of The Tetracuspид arrived a month late (which is better than average for recent issues), but contained a terse little note from Richard Kovalcik:

Jack--

Enclosed is a check for \$10.05. This is a refund of your Tetracuspид subscription balance at this time. I will not waste my time and money sending you the Tetracuspид. You constantly twist facts and try to give me a hard time. (I never promised I would never be late again.)

Yours,

Richard Kovalcik, Jr.

Well Tetracuspид has had a very bad track record for being late, possibly the worst record in this respect of any 'zine in the hobby. By reporting this, as I have indeed reported, I have not twisted any facts. Kovalcik has somehow blamed me for the low ratings that his Tetracuspид has received in the 'zine poll the past two years (It was 45th with a rating of 4.33 in 1980 and 54th with a rating of 2.89 in 1981). Sure, I gave it a low rating and I wrote Kovalcik and told him how I had rated it and why. But there were 25 other votes for Tetracuspид out there besides mine and, apparently, they didn't think a hell of a lot more about Tetracuspид than I did. As for Kovalcik's rating as a GM, he was last in 1980 and next to last in '81 with a rating of 2.25. I didn't vote for him this year, but voted him a

1 in 1980. In my exposure in the hobby he is the only unscrupulous GM that I have ever played under. He had a season rerun in 79KR after the adjudications had been published (and in spite of objections by other players) in order that one player (a friend of his) could correct a NMR. Then he refused to acknowledge my orders in the "illegal rerun" of the season. How could he say that I had not submitted orders when my orders had been more than just acknowledged--they had been published.

Go to hell Richard Kovalcik, Jr.--the hobby doesn't need your kind.

ONE MORE ISSUE FOR VOLKERWANDERUNG

Volkerwanderung, the #2 N.A. 'zine in 1980 and one of my favorite 'zines will cease publication after the next issue. In a sense Volker is ceasing publication, actually the present Volker format is being phased out in favor of the Russ-Q format that publisher Bob Arnett has used for the past year as a supplement to Volker. All games will be transferred to Russ-Q which has a simpler "open page" format rather than the "digest format" of Volker. Russ-Q may tend to be rather warehousey after Volker, but I am sure the games will continue to be well run with prompt publication of adjudications. Bob Arnett is one of the best GM's in the hobby. I don't know if Russ-Q subs are available or if there are any game openings, but you can enquire to Bob Arnett, 1500 Waterway Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

GAME OPENINGS IN WHY ME?

Lee Kendter, Sr. has announced game openings in his 'zine Why Me? Why Me? has been winding down to some extent and contains little but games. But those games are the best run that you will find anywhere. I don't think that there is anywhere in the hobby where you can find a better run and more reliable game than one of Lee Kendter's. If you are seeking to start a new game, why not drop a line to Lee Kendter, Sr., 4347 Benner Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135.

DREADNOUGHT WINDS UP

Dreadnought was Vern Schaller's "Gunboat Diplomacy" 'zine. He ran a seven player gunboat diplomacy tournament in it. With the conclusion of the tournament, the 'zine will cease publication. I did not play in the tournament but received Dreadnought in exchange for BF.

DOT HAPPY VS AVALON HILL

Allen Wells, Publisher of Dot Happy, has initiated a letter campaign vs Avalon Hill. All members of the postal hobby are encouraged to write to Avalon Hill (4517 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214) and complain about the new plastic pieces that are now replacing the wooden blocks in Diplomacy game sets. The plastic playing pieces certainly do "cheapen" the sets although the retail prices have gone from \$12.00 to \$17.00. The campaign may not do any good, but if enough of us write

Dot Happy, by the way, is a rather impressive 'zine and gaining a lot of followers. It is one of the more professional appearing 'zines as it is produced on a modern word processor with lines justified at both ends. A brand new 'zine in 1981, DH came in #2 in the recent Leeder Poll. If you haven't seen a copy, write to Allen Wells, 1450 Worcester Road, Apt. 8109, Framingham, MA 01701.



*See the merino standing there,
With his long, shaggy hayer.*

SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS

The hobbies premier Canadian 'zine, Dave Carter's Sleepless Knights, is back and going strong with the Canadian postal strike now ended.

Dave recently showed his devotion to the hobby, and his U.S. subbers, when he drove down to Ohio to mail and issue of SK, right in the middle of the postal strike.

Dave has game openings for five-week deadline games. I highly recommend both SK

and Dave as a GM. Why not check it out. Dave Carter, 118 Horsham Ave., Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2N 1Z9.

DIPLOMACY DIGEST HITS #50

DD is an interesting 'zine in that it does not carry games, but does provide a lot of valuable hobby information and history. Mark Berch just passed the 50 issue milestone with DD and his zine is going strong. For samples write M. Berch, 492 Naylor Pl., Alexandria, VA.



*See thumber Enos standing there,
With his long, shaggy hair.*



*Seethe the merinos, standing there,
With their long, shaggy hair.*

.....
WHITE DUKE COMES BACK

I have just received No. 7 of The White Duke, a 'zine by Steve Shaddix that I presumed (on the word of Dave Manuel) folded sometime ago. WD is, graphically, a nice looking product in digest form with an attractive layout, offset(?) printed on colored stock. I would be leery about starting a game in WD until Steve can establish a long term commitment to regular publication, however. For samples write: Steve Shaddix, 216 Roberts, Long Beach, MS 39560. (Note! New address for Steve).

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VOICE OF DOOM HITS 50

Bruce Linsey has just passed the issue 50 milestone with his 'zine VoD. Bruce did this by publishing 13 issues in a 13 week span. Unfortunately the quality of VoD has zoomed downhill with this recent publishing spree. Voice of Doom used to be one of my favorite 'zines, but they were not like the current crop. One recent issue was devoted almost in it's entirety to an attack (or as Brux would say counter-attack) on Bob Arnett. Another issue was devoted almost entirely to additional VoD houserules (Brux is up to 79 of these now including one that says if a player abbreviates the final two digits of the date in his orders, i.e. 2/19/82 that Brux will take it to mean 2/19/1982). But most of these issues have consisted primarily of letters from his subbers. Brutus Bulletin has made a publishing legend out of printing pubbers letters (plus John's Notes) but Brux is not getting letters of the quality that John gets. Most of the recent letters in VoD would be alright as filler items in a 'zine--but to make an entire issue of them as in #50? Brux made a statement in #50 that pretty

much sums it up: "These days I print just about everything I receive." Well everything that Brux receives is not making too good a 'zine nowadays. And, I hope that Mr. Linsey will take what I have said as constructive criticism and not come back demanding I take back what I have said and apologize to him in print.

I understand that Brux is somewhat piqued over the rating VoD received in the Leeder Poll (6.71 for 26th place--down from 10th in 1980) and the 'zine probably did deserve better and probably would have ranked somewhat higher except for negative votes (many voters may have failed to distinguish Bruce Linsey the individual from VoD the 'zine and voted accordingly). VoD received 77 votes the highest of any 'zine in the hobby.

Oh yes, I did note that Brux congratulated Allen Wells, Gary Coughlan and Mike Conner for making the top ten in their first year. I am sure that the omission of Jack Masters from this list was no accident.

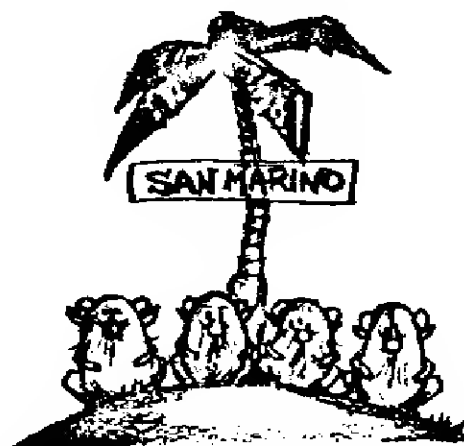
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WHILE I AM MENTIONING
OTHER ZINES

Maybe it would be a good idea to give some mini reviews of some of the top rated 'zines not otherwise mentioned here. You have all seen Black Frog, but it might be worth your while to sample some of the others in the top ten, if you have not seen them lately.

MURD'RING MINISTERS (#4)

This is one 'zine that I would have rated 1st myself. Ron Brown publishes lots of good stuff, hobby news, tactics articles, readers letters and assorted other information that he calls, appropriately enough, "stuff". Ron also has extremely well run games (which is one reason why he is the hobbies #2 rated GM). If you are not getting MM you should and, if possible, get into a game there (even if you have to sign on as a standby to do it.) Send a SASE to Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Place, Bakersfield, CA 93304.

When you write to Ron, ask him whatever happened to Jenny King and her subzine in MM. (I only added this because I had a small amount of space to fill at the bottom



See the Marinos standing there,
With their long, shaggy hair.

RETALIATION (#5)

Crud Martin's 'zine has a hardcore band of devoted followers. Big thick double issues (40 or 50) pages each month, but largely devoted to press from half-a-dozen games. Much of the humor in R will go over your head if you are not a regular reader as it tends to inside stuff. But it is a lot of fun if you are following it. The press in some of the games can be fun to follow too, it is wild and often out of hand, but not really lewd like some of the black press in Brutus Bulletin. Martin has a DIAS (draws include all survivors) rule which I personally think is the pits--but some may love it. Send about three 18¢ stamps for a sample (postage on R runs about 52¢ per copy) and apply to: Dick Martin, 6103 Breezewood Ct., #202, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

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EUROPA EXPRESS (#6)

Throughout the hobby, Gary Coughlan is often played up to be a southern "hick" (e.g. the Y'All image) but the real Gary Coughlan 'zine, Europa Express, is a rather sophisticated product. An excellent new 'zine. Gary is in considerable contact with the European hobby and has many correspondents in Europe. This does give EE a very decided European flavor which I enjoy. Gary also has a very unique method of extracting comments from his correspondents letters (rather than printing entire letters in the VoD manner). This allows ideas to be developed one by one, albeit allowing several viewpoints. It is a good feature. All in all, EE is undoubtedly the best 'zine in North America--to be published by a chimp! Write Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, Tennessee 38118.

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LONE STAR DIPLOMAT (#7)

LSD has the best reproduction of any N.A. 'zine, well run games, hobby news, humor and a Texas flavor. I like it! LSD is about the right size for a monthly 'zine, the info and articles are pertinent and never superfluous. Oh he does some off-beat things; like having a hobby mascot poll; but don't we all? LSD is one of the few 'zines that (except for the game reports) I read from cover to cover. Mike Conner, 3214 Beverly Road, Austin, Texas 78703.

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What are you supposed to do when you only have this much room at the bottom of the page? This, I guess!



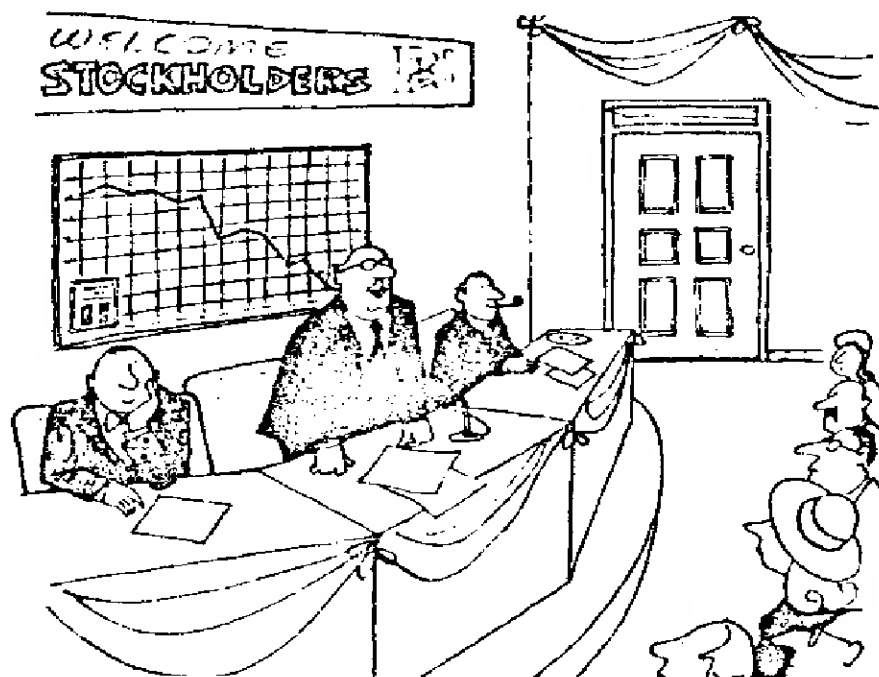
See the merino standing there,
With his long, shaggy air.

JUST AMONG FRIENDS (#8)

This has to be the most improved 'zine of the year. It started out in barely legible "ditto" format, but has ended up in an attractive digest format, printed with a modern word processor (with justified lines) and published by xerox. The content seems to have improved along with the graphics--but this may simply be my imagination as I am able to read it all now. The

best part of JAF is Al's cartoons "Personal Glimpses of Famous Diplomacy Players" several of which appear in each issue. These are so good that I can't resist the opportunity to reproduce a couple of them.....

PERSONAL GLIMPSES AT FAMOUS DIPLOMACY PLAYERS: John Michalski



"Ladies and Gentlemen, just think what kind of shape we would have been in if john didn't want to use our recycled envelopes!"

Friendly Al, as publisher Al Pearson likes to be called (his game opponents call him "Liar Al") does indeed publish a friendly 'zine. For samples contact Al Pearson, Rte. 1, Box 177B5, Kearneysville, WV 25430. I've heard that West Virginia is somewhere in the east, but who knows for sure--nobody ever goes there!



"So, Doc. Cagey, to unnerve Kathy at the Dip Tourney, I claimed that cigarette smoke bothered me."

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JIHAD! (#9)

Outside of Envoy, probably no 'zine has more games stuffed into each of it's monthly issues than Jihad! There is a lot of other material in Jihad! too. Although some issues are quite "warehousey" most of them have a lot of good reading material. The Jihad! "press game" (1981C) is probably one of the most interesting active games in the hobby today. The game is much better than the press however. Jihad! is in attractive digest format with photoreduced type (packing a lot of material between it's pages). Jeri and Pam Overby combine to put a subzine called From Women Only, which up until the latest issue has always contained pictures of their favorite hobby queen candidate--Jacquie Masters. Write Glenn E. Overby II, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park, MI 48030.

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CHEESECAKE (#10)

This is the only one of the top ten 'zines that I don't get. In fact I have never seen a copy. I understand that Cheesecake is distributed free of charge, but only if you play a game in the 'zine or agree to be a standby. I have heard a lot of good things about it. For more information write: Andy Lischett, 3025 North Davlin Court, Chicago, Illinois 60618.

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WHITESTONIA (#12)

Moving from 43 place (in the 1980 Leeder poll) to #12 in 1981--Whitestonia is certainly the most improved (rating wise) hobby 'zine. The 'zine has acquired an avid following. In addition to Diplomacy, you will find

game openings in Mastermind and Chutes & Ladders, as well as other "war" games. Ostensibly published by John Caruso, but Kathy Byrne probably does as much of the work as John and a great deal of the writing. The team effort works well and I always look forward to receiving W. There is one flaw, however, W often appears to completely disorganized in the way material is presented within it's pages and this is partly due to relatively poor xerography. But, this may add to it's charm for some people. For samples write John Caruso, 160-02 43rd Ave. (2nd floor), Flushing, NY 11358.

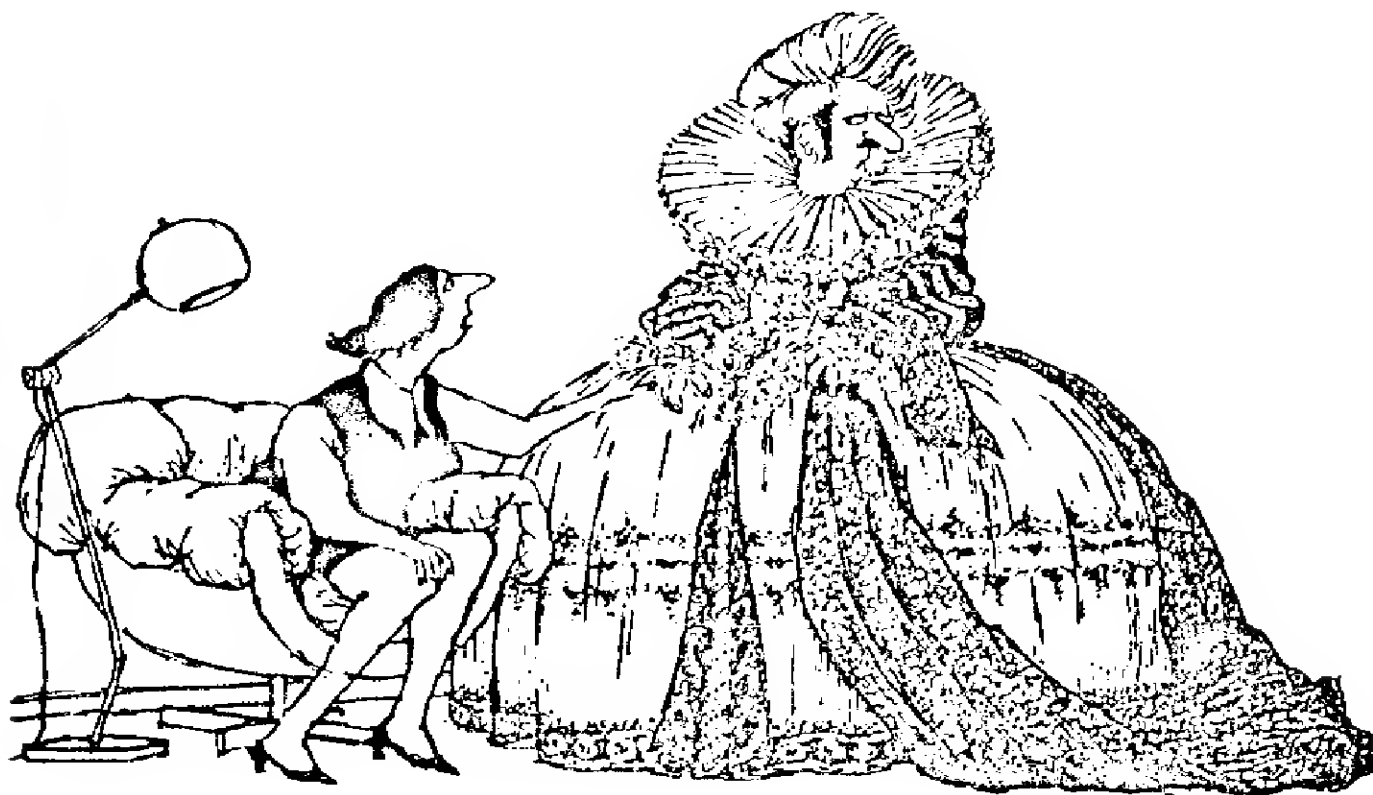
Be sure to specify "2nd Floor" or your inquiry may go astray. Rumors have it that Bruce Linsey has a maiden aunt living on the first floor and all Whitestonia mail coming her way will mysteriously disappear.

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PERSONAL GLIMPSES OF FAMOUS DIPLOMACY PLAYERS: Kathy Byrne.
(once again from Just Among Friends)



You all wondered how she did so well in this postal hobby!!

PERSONAL GLIMPSES AT FAMOUS DIPLOMACY PLAYERS: Jack Masters
(once again from Just Among Friends)



Jack's wife pleads with him not to play
England in 1981L - The Snake Pit!

1981K

GREED

Summer '03

FALL 1903 TO BE DELAYED!!

Bobby Stephens did not receive his copy of East of Eden #14 with the Spring '03 adjudications for this game. He has requested a delay in the deadline as a result and the delay is hereby granted. Deadline for F'03 is now Thursday October 1st at 12:00 noon PDT.

Well issue #47 comes to an end, there were so many things that I thought I would get into here but didn't. Well next time, I hope to get most of them.